

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LONDON 01310 281732Z

61

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

----- 066484

R 281720Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7688

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T LONDON 01310

EXDIS

E.O.11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MARR, MASS, MU, UK, US

SUBJECT: TOW MISSILES: MTT ROLE

REF: STATE 15846; MUSCAT 60 (NOTAL) AND 109

1. ON JANUARY 27 WE INFORMED FCO ACTING ME DEPARTMENT HEAD CLARK THAT SAF COMMANDER GENERAL CREASEY HAD BEEN FULLY BRIEFED ABOUT TOW MISSILES, PER STATE REFTEL. HE ACCEPTED IT IN GOOD GRACE, WITHOUT COMMENT.

2. WE ALSO RAISED PUZZLE OF DISAPPEARING BRITISH MASTER SERGEANT AND OTHER INTERMEDIARIES ASSISTING US TECHNICIANS IN TOW TRAINING. CLARK HAD NEVER HEARD OF INCIDENTS AND WAS AMUSED BY CITATION OF US-UK "AGREEMENT" PER MUSCAT 60. WHOLE SERIES OF MISADVENTURES WAS LAUGHED OFF. CLARK CHECKED WITH DESK OFFICERS AND TOLD US NEXT DAY NONE OF THEM HAD HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT THIS EITHER. IT MUST BE LOCAL.

3. CLARK DID MENTION BRITISH PROTEST TO DEPARTMENT THROUGH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON ABOUT SALE OF TOW'S BEING CONTRARY TO USG POLICY AS OUTLINED IN US-UK CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON LAST YEAR. HE WAS UNCLEAR THAT ANY KIND

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OF REPLY WAS GIVEN AND DID NOT SEEM TO EXPECT ANY. HE

WAS RELAXED ABOUT IT.

4. COMMENT: BRITISH ARE TREATING TOW AFFAIR WITH STOIC RESIGNATION. IT WOULD BE OUT OF CHARACTER FOR THEM TO GET INVOLVED FROM LONDON IN DETAILS OF SAF TRAINING. IT OCCURS TO US THAT LOCAL INITIATIVE OF EITHER OMANIS OR BRITISH IN SAF DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT WOULD BE WHOLLY ADEQUATE TO EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED. WE KNOW HIGH-RANKING OMANIS HERE HAVE WANTED TO HANDLE TOW DEAL WITHOUT BRITISH INTERMEDIARIES, THOUGH IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THEY WOULD INTERFERE WITH NORMAL SAF LINES OF COMMAND ONCE TOW'S HAD ARRIVED AND TRAINING ON THEM BEGUN. LOCAL INTERPRETATION OF SUCH INSTRUCTIONS MIGHT BE OVERLY EAGER. IN ANY CASE, WE ARE KEEPING FCO FULLY APPRISED OF SUCH CONTRETEMPS (WHICH DO NOT LACK THEIR COMIC SIDE) SINCE TO DO OTHERWISE MIGHT ONLY CREATE SUSPICION OF USG INTENTIONS THAT DO NOT EXIST.

SPIERS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic DecapTIONing:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PERSONNEL TRAINING, MILITARY AGREEMENTS, MISSILES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 JAN 1975  
**DecapTION Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**DecapTION Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Subject:** TOW MISSILES: MTT ROLE  
**TAGS:** MARR, MASS, MU, UK, US  
**To:** STATE  
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